

Appl. No. 09/446,202
Atty. Docket No. 6741
Amdt. dated 02/26/2004
Reply to Office Action of 12/18/03
Customer number 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13. (*Canceled*)

Claim 14. (*Currently amended*) A concentrated composition suitable for use with impure water contaminated with microorganisms in preparing a dilute treatment composition having a viscosity of less than about 10cp for treating food at a basic pH to reduce the level of microorganisms on said food by diluting said composition with said impure water using from about 0.1% to about 5% of the concentrated composition, by weight of the dilute treatment composition, said concentrated composition comprising:

- (a) from about 0.5% to about 50% by weight of lauryl sulfate ~~toxicologically acceptable detergent surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates and C₈-C₁₄ soaps~~;
- (b) a basic buffer to provide a pH in said dilute treatment composition of from about 11.5 ~~10.5 to~~ about 13, but with low reserve alkalinity in said dilute composition to avoid damage to a human, the level of orthophosphate, when present, being from about 3% to about 60%, by weight of phosphoric acid equivalent;
- (c) from about 2% to about 20% by weight of a calcium ion sequestrant, which is sodium and/or potassium tripolyphosphate and/or ethylenediaminetetraacetate;
- (d) optionally, a toxicologically-acceptable preservative;
- (e) a toxicologically-acceptable suds suppressor; and
- (f) the balance comprising compatible, toxicologically-acceptable inert and/or minor ingredients, said composition being packaged in combination with usage instructions which instruct the user regarding dilution and timing of usage of said composition to treat said food, as well as directing the user not to rinse the composition from the thus-treated food to avoid possible recontamination, wherein said timing of usage comprises contacting said food with said dilute treatment composition for a period of time of at least one minute ~~in excess of one-half minute~~.

Claims 15-23. (*Canceled*)